

Executive R.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

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5 June 1976

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Mr. John William Ward
President
Amherst College
Amherst, Massachusetts 01002

Dear President Ward:

This is in response to your letter of 17 May 1976, in which you levied upon CIA a Freedom of Information Act request concerning paid or unpaid contact between the Agency and any faculty member, student, or employee of Amherst College. This aspect of your letter has been referred to the appropriate office for handling under procedures designed to implement the Act. You will receive that response in due course.

You raised several other issues in your letter, and their tone suggests that you misunderstand the nature of CIA contact with the academic community. I note that you sent William Van Alstyne, President, AAUP, a copy of your letter to me. As you apparently are aware, he also wrote expressing concerns similar to yours. I believe that my response to him was clear, and I take the liberty of quoting here from that letter, dated 11 May 1976. I said,

"The Agency has several kinds of relationships with scholars and scholarly institutions. They include negotiated contracts for scientific research and development, contracts for social science research on the many matters that affect foreign policy, paid and unpaid consultations between scholars and CIA research analysts, contracts with individuals who have travelled abroad, and other similar contracts that help us fulfill our primary responsibility; i.e., to provide the policy makers of our government with information and assessments of foreign developments.

We seek the voluntary and witting cooperation of individuals who can help the foreign policy processes of the United States. Those who help are expressing a freedom of choice. Occasionally such relationships are confidential at our request,

